

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims in the manner indicated.

1-20. (cancelled)

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~~21.~~(New) A method comprising:

notifying an occupant of a vehicle of an occurrence of a detected sound outside of the vehicle;

wherein the detected sound is a non-audible signal.

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~~22.~~(New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the detected sound is associated with an emergency vehicle.

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~~23.~~(New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the detected sound is associated with a security system.

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~~24.~~(New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the detected sound is associated with a toll booth.

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~~25.~~(New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the detected sound is associated with a cell phone communication.

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26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein notifying the occupant comprises disabling a sound system in the vehicle.

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27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein notifying the occupant comprises disabling a portable communication device in the vehicle.

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28. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising filtering the detected sound to determine a particular characteristic of the detected sound.

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29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein filtering the detected sound comprises processing the detected sound with a processing unit.

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30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein processing the detected sound comprises converting the detected sound to a digital representation.

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31. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein notifying the occupant includes broadcasting a prerecorded message.

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32. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein notifying the occupant includes enabling a warning indicator.

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~~33.~~ (New) A method comprising:

detecting an occurrence of a particular sound; and

informing an occupant of a vehicle of the occurrence of the particular sound;

wherein the particular sound is a non-audible signal.

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~~34.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~33~~, wherein detecting the occurrence of the particular sound includes:

determining if at least a portion of the particular sound comprises a predetermined characteristic.

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~~35.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~34~~, wherein the predetermined characteristic is associated with an emergency vehicle.

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~~36.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~34~~, wherein determining if at least the portion of the particular sound comprises the predetermined characteristic comprises converting the portion of the sound external to the vehicle to a digital representation and determining if the digital representation includes the predetermined characteristic.

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~~37.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~35~~, wherein informing the occupant of the vehicle of the occurrence of the particular sound comprises disabling a sound system.

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38. (New) A system comprising:

a sound detection system coupled to a vehicle to capture at least a portion of a sound; and
a processing unit to determine if the portion of the sound comprises a predetermined
characteristic;

wherein the sound is a non-audible signal.

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**39. (New) The system of claim 38, wherein the predetermined characteristic is
associated with an emergency vehicle.**

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**40. (New) The system of claim 38, wherein the predetermined characteristic is
associated with a toll booth.**